

WANDERERS HIT ROCK BOTTOM

by ARGUS

Maidenhead United 2, Wycombe Wanderers 1

WYCOMBE OUT OF LUCK

Maidenhead 2 Wycombe W 1
(After extra time)

MAIDENHEAD had their revenge for their defeat last season by Wycombe Wanderers in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup, for in the semi-final of the Cup at Marlow the Corinthian League side fully deserved to enter the final.

It needed extra time before the tie was decided but Maidenhead had proved themselves the better side.

They combined much better than the Wanderers who never got together as a team.

Their defence was unsteady and the forwards with the international Paul Bates well held by the Maidenhead half-backs were simply five individuals.

Maidenhead's first goal was a lucky one, for with the linesman flagging for a foul throw-in the Wycombe defence stood still and allowed Wally Beevers, the Maidenhead centre forward, to go through Wycombe were unlucky when both Ivor Ashby and Peter Murphy hit the bar.

But they got on terms five minutes before the end of 90 minutes when a corner from Murphy ran along the crossbar and Mickey Rockell touched the ball in.

During extra time good work by Wally Beevers resulted in David Way heading the winning goal.

THIS was a terrible Wycombe performance judged even by some of the uninspired performances of this season. A methodless, mediocre Berks and Bucks Cup semi-final, this Marlow game made many fans dread the possibility of summer soccer and an extension of the agony . . . so unbelievably inept were the Wanderers.

Losing to Corinthian League rivals Maidenhead was bad enough — for this modestly-equipped United side are no world-beaters—but the manner in which Wycombe lost was tragic.

After scrambling into extra time through a Michael Rockell goal five minutes from the finish Wycombe were put on the rack by a Maidenhead team which seemed to have a monopoly of ideas, zest and shooting ability.

Ex-Wanderer Dennis Way scored a glorious winner soon after extra time started, glancing a perfect header past goalkeeper Ken Brown.

But the architect of the goal and this Maidenhead win was centre-forward Wally Beevers, who gave John Fisher the slip as he had been doing all through the game, Fisher, who seemed to be standing on some invisible banana skin, made Beevers look like Alfredo de Stefano.

It was little wonder that the Wycombe defence had the shakes when United piled on the pressure—as they did almost unceasingly during extra time.

REAL CULPRITS

Yet the real Wycombe culprits were the forwards. With centre-forward Tommy Holmes having a shocker and making two incredible misses through slowness to the ball in the goalmouth, the Wanderers hadn't a clue how to beat agile United goalkeeper Peter Prunty.

Admittedly Maidenhead had all the luck that was going—Holmes and debut left-winger Alan Murphy hit the woodwork within a few seconds of each other—but a gallant United defence deserved to survive.

The Ashby experiment deserves another try. Wing half Ivor had a good first half at inside-right but fell away with the rest of the attack in the second half.

The Wanderers never recovered from a seventh-minute goal that was highly suspect. Ignoring a linesman waving his flag for a foul throw-in, referee Mr. H. A. Harris allowed Beevers to run through a casual Wycombe defence to score. There was no consultation afterwards and a protesting Wycombe were a goal down.

Holmes missed a simple equaliser from the dark, lively Murphy's centre, the United woodwork stopped certain Wycombe goals and Prunty made a great save from Bates—the United were unquestionably happy to be 1-0 up at the interval.

BUSY BROWN

But it was a different story in the second half as United gained control. With Johnny Reardon, another old Wycombe player, always prominent in attack, they kept Brown busy. As an emergency move, full-back John Beck stepped into the Wycombe front line to rake the dying embers.

The switch certainly shook some life into Wycombe and from Murphy's well placed corner-kick Rockell lashed in an equalising goal from an acute angle. Almost immediately Holmes had the goal at his mercy and missed.

There was only one team in the running during extra time. Way's great goal inspired Maidenhead, who played with growing confidence and Polish inside-left Jakubiec rubbed in the salt by hitting a goalpost.